

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

The instant amendment to the specification deletes the erroneous amendment made in Applicant's last response dated December 3, 2003. In addition, independent claim 16 has been amended so as to be consistent with the original disclosure on Page 14, the examples, and the originally filed claims.

Applicants apologize for the inadvertent errors which were introduced as a result of faulty translation.

The claims as now amended as well as the specification as now amended overcomes the examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Accordingly, entrance of the instant amendment deleting the inadvertent errors is respectfully requested.

It is submitted that original Page 14, lines 14-18 in the specification is clear. The paragraph on Page 14, lines 14-18 sets forth the following:

"The inner reference solution (5) comprises hydrogel containing electrolytes which is composed of 85-99% weight% of glycerol solution; 1-10 weight% of agar solution; polymer glue; or other water soluble polymers."

As can be seen from the foregoing semicolons are provided between glycerol solution; agar solution; polymer glue; and

water soluble polymers. The use of the semicolons clearly establishes that these are not used together but rather alone. This is consistent with the examples. For example, the examiner's attention is drawn to the Table bridging Pages 25 and 26 of the original specification. In light of the foregoing comments it is submitted that the examiner's previous rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the examiner's rejection as set forth in his final rejection should be withdrawn.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it
is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit
Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

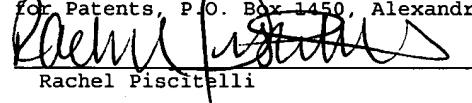
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on June 9, 2004.


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